REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

No claims are currently being canceled.

Claims 61-63 are currently being amended.

Claims 64-66 are currently being added.

This amendment amends and adds claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-66 are now pending in this application.

Applicant appreciates the indication in the Office Action that claims 1-40 and 55-60 are allowed, as well as the indication that claims 41-54 contain allowable subject matter.

In the Office Action, claims 41-54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, due to the use of "etc." in base claim 41. By way of this amendment and reply, claim 41 has been amended to remove "etc." (without affecting the scope of that claim), and thus claims 41-54 are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, claims 61-63 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,745,169 to Murphy. This rejection, to the extent that it may be applied to presently pending claims 61-63, is traversed for at least the reasons given below.

One important feature of the present invention according to claims 61-63 is to restrict a judged region of a decoded image based on pixel value distribution by using error detection code technology such as a Reed-Solomon code. In conventional systems such as the one described in Murphy, an error detection process based on pixel value distribution requires considerable computational

complexity. In any event, claims 61-63 have been amended to recite that the coded signal is comprised of a plurality of coded block data units, whereby the other elements of those claims have been amended in a similar manner. Murphy does not teach or suggest such features, in combination with the already-recited features in those claims.

New claims 64-66 have been added, whereby these new claims are believed to distinguish over the teachings of Murphy.

In particular, new claim 64 includes a dividing means for dividing said coded signal into a plurality of coded block data units and for determining whether or not an error exists in each of said coded block data units based on the error portion in the coded signal as determined by said determining means. New claims 65 and 66 include similar features. Please note that the dividing means receives the coded signal output by the determining means, it divides the coded signal into a plurality of coded data blocks, and it provides the plurality of coded data blocks to the decoding means. Due to the error portion of the coded signal as determined by the determining means, one or more decoded data blocks are determined to have errors in them, and those "error data blocks" are subject to an error concealment by an error concealment means.

New claim 64 also recites that the calculating means determines a region to which the error portion corresponds in the decoded image, with respect to each of a plurality of decoded block data units that were decoded from each of said plurality of coded block data units by the decoding means.

Murphy's system receives image data via input port 41 as shown in Figure 3 of that reference, whereby the image data is stored in a first image store 43 and a second image store 44. A DCT unit 48 determines errors in the image data, and provides that information to a processing unit 49, whereby the processing unit 49 provides a block overwrite signal, by way of block overwrite controller 47, to the image data stored in one or both of the image stores 43, 44.

Unlike the present invention as recited in new claims 64-66, Murphy's system does not divide the image data into a plurality of coded data blocks, and Murphy's system does not determine a region to which an error portion corresponds in a decoded image with respect to each of a plurality of decoded block data units that were decoded. Also, Murphy's system performs error detection, by way of his detect/conceal errors unit 29, after his image data has already been decoded by his decompress unit 27, as shown in Figure 1 of Murphy. In the present invention as recited in new claims 64-66, a determining unit determines an error portion in a coded signal, and then the coded signal is divided into a plurality of coded data blocks, and then the plurality of coded data blocks are decoded into a plurality of decoded data blocks.

In Murphy, a first frame of image data is stored in a first image store 43, and a second frame of image data is stored in a second image store 44, whereby errors in the first and second frames of image data are determined to exist or not exist while the first and second frames of image data are being written into the first and second image stores 43, 44. See column 4, lines 5-20 of Murphy. In claim 64, however, error detection is performed on a coded signal prior to any dividing up of a coded signal into a plurality of coded data blocks, and thus Murphy's system operates much different from that of the invention recited in new claim 64.

Since new claims 65 and 66 recite subject matter similar to that recited in claim 64, those claims are also much different from the disclosure of Murphy.

Accordingly, new claims 64-66 are believed to patentably distinguish over the teachings of Murphy.

Therefore, since there are no other objections or rejections raised in the Office Action, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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